

SUSSEX COUNTY AIRPORT ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Meeting Minutes
September 28, 2011

Opening:

The regular meeting of the Sussex County Airport Advisory Committee was called to order at approximately 6:09 p.m. on September 28, 2011 at Sussex County Emergency Operations Center, by Committee Chairman, Jeff Reed.

Advisory Committee Members Present:

Honorable Sam Wilson, County Council

Dave Baker, County Administrator

Todd Lawson, Administrator Appointee

Mike Izzo, P.E., County Engineer

Julie Wheatley, Director, County Economic Development

Garrett Dernoga

Rick Garner

Larry Kelley

Jeff Reed

Mark Ryan

Richard Wilson

Jim Hickin, A.A.E., Sussex County Airport (Non-member)

Advisory Committee Members Absent:

Gus Croll

1. Amend and Approve Agenda

A Motion was made by Garrett Dernoga, seconded by Julie Wheatley, to approve the agenda as distributed. The agenda was unanimously approved by consent.

2. Approval of Minutes

A Motion was made by Richard Wilson, seconded by Rick Garner, to approve the minutes of the June 22, 2011 meeting as distributed. The minutes were unanimously approved by consent.

3. Public Comments

John Reichert stated that half of the roof on his hangar was fixed. Jim Hickin is waiting on bid results for the door to be replaced.

4. Airport/Industrial Park Security

Jim Hickin introduced Joe Kempf, Sussex County Safety & Security Director, to the committee to discuss how the Security Department performs their rounds and building checks. Joe Kempf commented that Bennett Security has been relieved of their duties at the airport and the airport is now fully managed by Sussex County security guards. Due

to health issues, Joe Kempf has not been able to speak directly with the county attorney regarding issues with the guards performing building/property checks on various tenant buildings. He is hoping to have some opinions from the attorney next week. Jeff Reed complimented Sussex County Security with the job they are doing at the Airport. Joe Kempf suggested guidance from the Airport Advisory Committee regarding what their preference for security/property checks would be. Mike Izzo expressed confidence in the Joe Kempf to manage the Security program. Mike suggested if someone has an issue with Security to please bring it to the committee to resolve it. Joe Kempf was requested to come back to the next meeting when he has obtained the county attorney's opinion regarding security checks.

5. Emergency Response

Rick Garner informed the committee that in July he met with the Georgetown Fire Company to tour the airport, including various aircraft, and the runways. Rick is in the process of setting up a drill in the future. Jim Hickin requested Rick to please coordinate the drill with him. Jeff Reed commented that he received positive feedback the night the fire company came out for the tour.

6. Wildlife Management Update

Jeff Reed stated that when he was ready to take off last week there were deer at the end of the runway. Jim Hickin updated the committee on the recent activities regarding wildlife at the airport. Deer- Jim reported that the fence is closed up with the exception of one ditch, which has water in it. The County will continue to "harass" the deer with the next step being another "roundup". After a couple times of using these means, we will move forward with lethal means to rid of the deer. We will obtain a permit from DNREC to pursue this method. Geese- County now has a permit to shoot geese and may attempt using a paintball gun to "harass" them first. Skunks- Mark Ryan, PATS, reported they have captured skunks, raccoons, and cats. They have hired someone to perform this service. Vultures- They are protected therefore no permits can be obtained to rid of these birds.

Jim Hickin stated that we had a helicopter spray the ditch vegetation to help with weeds to deter wildlife. Jim also asked about a "birdhouse" that was near one of the hangars. He was informed it was not a birdhouse, but a bird trap.

7. Wings & Wheels

Larry Kelley informed the committee that Wings & Wheels will be held at the airport, Saturday, October 1, 2011 from 10 a- 4p. Larry described the program, aircraft and dinner dance for the event. Dave Baker asked if the event would affect any NASCAR planes that may be coming in. Garrett Dernoga replied no as they have space in front of Deltech hangar to park the few larger aircraft that was expected in. Larry Kelley complimented the county maintenance department for cutting the grass near his hangar that will be utilized for Wings & Wheels.

8. Airport Update

1. Solar Panels: Solar Panel farm is up and running and generating power to EOC.
2. Rudder Lane Re-paving: Road has been rehabilitated; entrance widened; just waiting on striping to be done.
3. FAA Grant- \$514,000 grant was awarded to replace wetlands in the fall. The replacement occurs near or around Selbyville area.
4. Runway Extension-500 ft; September 2012 start date with an estimated date of completion in 2013. A MALS (Medium Intensity Approach Lighting) System will be installed.
5. Taxiway Rehabilitations: Taxiway A from the terminal building to 22 work is expected sometime between April-June, 2011. Taxiway B to 10-28 will go out to bid approximately Jan 2012 with starting range of June 2012. These are county funded projects
6. Tiedowns are complete. Garrett commented that the pilots have been very complimentary.
7. John Reichert's hangar: Waiting for a date for the concrete repair.
8. Dave Baker thanked everyone for their work on the Wings & Wheels event.
9. Dave Baker introduced Todd Lawson as the new Administrator Appointee that will assume the Administrator's position beginning January 2012.
10. Dave Baker discussed the Extreme Home Makeover project with the committee and shared the assistance the county provided to this event during the time of the earthquake, hurricane and tornado that spawned while they were working on this project. The county provided a place for them to store their equipment for a few days.
11. Dave Baker informed the group that the County is still working on a plan and still meeting with legislators to obtain the 1,000 ft. runway and to help keep project moving.

9. Airport Policies (Continued) Minimum Standards, Volume IV

Jim Hickin began the discussion by stating how not having Minimum Standards in place has negatively affected airport. A couple of potential businesses have expressed an interest in locating at the airport but with no minimum standards in place it creates a lengthy process for obtaining approvals. Garrett Dernoga commented that we need to be careful in how the standards are written.

Discussion began with a review of the Fuel Sale part of the document that was covered at the last meeting.

At this time Larry Kelley asked what the county could do about advocating to the state to have the Motor Fuel Tax removed from AVGAS. At the current time, pilots pay the tax and have to fill out a form and get reimbursed for the tax. Jim Hickin stated that he is on the Delaware Aviation Advisory Council and said the group is looking at other ways to obtain the funds. Jim suggested the committee take a position on the matter and send it to Sussex County Council requesting they advocate about the tax. This item was suggested to be on the agenda for the next meeting. A motion was made by Larry Kelley, seconded by Rick Garner to draft a letter to Council to request they advocate to the State Assembly to eliminate road tax. Motion was unanimously approved by consent.

After this discussion a handout was distributed regarding Flight Training. After a lengthy discussion on the definition of a flight school, insurance requirements, and aircraft requirements, the committee mutually agreed to use a very simplified description and criteria for this section of the document.

At the next meeting discussion will begin with the Aircraft Maintenance Operator (ASO) section of the document.

10. Next Meeting Date

Jeff Reed asked committee what their recommendation was for changing the frequency of the meetings to bi-monthly or quarterly meetings. At this time the committee agreed to hold monthly meetings until all the policies were developed and then review the frequency after that time. The time of the meetings were also mentioned and it was also the consensus of the committee to continue to keep the meetings at 6 p.m., and to hold next meeting in October (October 26,) as scheduled. However, due to the holidays it was decided to combine November and December's meetings into one meeting that will be held on Wednesday, December 7, 2011 at 6 p.m. at EOC.

Adjournment:

Garrett Dernoga made a motion, and seconded by Rick Garner, to adjourn the meeting at 8:25 p.m. The next meeting will be at 6:00 p.m. on Wednesday, October 26, 2011 at Sussex County Emergency Operations Center.

Minutes respectfully submitted by:

Susan Wise, Clerk III Technician
Sussex County Airport